

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A file management method ~~for comprising:~~ recording on a recording medium and managing a distributed object and a metadata file, the metadata file being an individual file comprising information related to the object and used to retrieve, categorize, and organize the object, wherein correspondence between an identifier of the a metadata file and an identifier of the an object corresponding to ~~that~~ the metadata file is managed by means of a metadata correspondence management file.

2. (Currently Amended) The file management method according to claim 1, ~~being a file management method for further comprising:~~ managing the said object and metadata file on the said recording medium by means of a directory structure, wherein a record type indicating a placement location of the said metadata correspondence management file within the said directory structure is provided in the said metadata correspondence management file.

3. (Currently Amended) The file management method according to claim 2, ~~being a file management method for further comprising:~~

creating and managing a service directory for each service by which the said object is distributed,

wherein said record type indicates that the said metadata correspondence management file is placed under the said service directory.

4. (Currently Amended) The file management method according to claim 3 [[2]], ~~being a file management method for further comprising:~~

recording on the said recording medium a package directory for each package file with at least one content,

wherein the said record type indicates that the said metadata correspondence management file is placed under the said package directory.

5. (Currently Amended) The file management method according to claim 4, wherein said record type indicates a distinction as to whether a metadata file included in the said metadata correspondence management file corresponds to a package or corresponds to a service.

6. (Currently Amended) The file management method according to claim 4, wherein the said record type indicates a distinction as to whether a metadata file included in the said metadata correspondence management file corresponds to a package file or corresponds to content contained in a package file.

7. (Currently Amended) The file management method according to claim 1, wherein the said metadata correspondence management file indicates a one-to-one relationship between one object identifier and one metadata file identifier.

Claims 8-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A file management method according to claim 1, further comprising:

creating a directory for each package when said the object is said the package file;

recording, on the basis of said the directory, a content file contained in the relevant corresponding package and a metadata file corresponding to that the content file;

assigning to the directory a directory name that corresponds to a package directory number assigned uniquely to the package;

managing, with a package management file, correspondence between a directory name of said directory the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to said the package;

managing with a content file group management file correspondence between a file name when said content file and said

assigning to the content file and to the metadata file a name that corresponds to a content number assigned in package units when the content file and the metadata file are recorded on said the recording medium;  
medium and an identifier of said content and metadata; and

managing

managing, with a content file group management file, correspondence between the content number and an identifier of the content file or correspondence between the content number and an identifier of the metadata file; and

managing correspondence between an identifier of a content file contained in said the package and a corresponding identifier of a metadata file, using the metadata correspondence management file.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A content recording apparatus comprising:  
a data recorder that records recording means for recording a distributed object and a metadata file on a recording medium, the metadata file being an individual file comprising information related to the object and used to retrieve, categorize, and organize the object; and

a metadata correspondence information recorder that creates and records recording means for creating and recording, on said the recording medium, the

metadata correspondence management file according to claim 1 indicating correspondence between said the object and said the metadata file.

Claim 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A content playback apparatus that plays back content from a recording medium on which a distributed content file and file management information are recorded, comprising:

a metadata correspondence resolution means for using device that uses the metadata correspondence management file according to claim 1 containing correspondence between an identifier of said the content file and an identifier of a metadata file corresponding thereto to the content file and acquiring a metadata file corresponding to a content file.

16. (Currently Amended) The content playback apparatus according to claim 15 that, when content is distributed in package units in which related content is collected, using a the metadata correspondence management file containing correspondence between an identifier of said the package and an identifier of a metadata file corresponding thereto to the package, acquires a metadata file corresponding to said the package.

Claim 17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The content playback apparatus according to claim 22 +7 that, when content is distributed in package units in which related content is collected, using a the metadata correspondence management file containing correspondence between an identifier of said the package and an identifier of a metadata file corresponding thereto to the package, acquires a metadata file corresponding to said the package.

Claim 19 (Canceled)

20. (New) A file management method according to claim 1, further comprising:

creating a directory for each service when content is distributed in package units in which related content is collected;

creating, on the basis of the directory, a subdirectory for each package distributed from a related service and recording a metadata file corresponding to the related package;

assigning to the directory a directory name that corresponds to a package directory number uniquely assigned to the package;

managing, with a package management file, correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package;

recording, on the basis of the subdirectory, a file of content contained in the related package, and a file of metadata corresponding to the related content;

assigning to the content file and to the metadata a file name that corresponds to a content number assigned in package units when the content file and the metadata file are recorded on the recording medium;

managing, with a content file group management file, correspondence between the content number and an identifier of the content file or correspondence between the content number and an identifier of the metadata file;

assigning to the directory a directory name that corresponds to a service directory number uniquely assigned to the service;

managing, with a service management file, correspondence between the service directory number and a service identifier assigned to the service;

assigning to the metadata file, a filename that corresponds to a metadata file number uniquely assigned in each service directory, when the metadata file is recorded on the recording medium;

managing, with a metadata file group management file, correspondence between the metadata file number and an identifier of the metadata file, when the metadata file is recorded on the recording medium; and

managing, with the metadata correspondence management file, correspondence between the service identifier and an identifier of the metadata file corresponding to the service identifier, correspondence between an identifier of the package and an identifier of the metadata file corresponding thereto, and

correspondence between an identifier of the content file and an identifier of the metadata file corresponding thereto.

21. (New) The content recording apparatus according to claim 13, wherein when content is distributed in package units in which related content is collected, further comprising:

a service management information recorder that creates a directory corresponding to each service, assigns to the directory a directory name that corresponds to a service directory number uniquely assigned to the service, and creates and records, on the recording medium, a service management file indicating correspondence between the service directory number and a service identifier assigned to the service; and

a package metadata file recorder that assigns a file name to and that records on the recording medium, a metadata file corresponding to a metadata file number uniquely assigned in each service directory, and creates and records on the recording medium, a metadata file group management file indicating correspondence between the metadata file number of the file and an identifier of the file.

22. (New) A content playback apparatus comprising:  
a metadata correspondence resolution device, that, when content is played back from a recording medium on which files of content, distributed from a

plurality of services, and file management information are recorded on a directory created for each service, uses the file management information and acquires respective metadata files corresponding to a content file and corresponding to a service,

wherein the file management information is comprises a service management file that indicates correspondence between a service directory number uniquely corresponding to a directory name of the directory and a service identifier assigned to the service, a metadata file group management file indicating correspondence between a metadata file number uniquely corresponding to a name of a metadata file corresponding to the service and an identifier of the relevant metadata, and, the metadata correspondence management file according to claim 1 containing correspondence between an identifier of the service and an identifier of a metadata file corresponding thereto and correspondence between an identifier of a content file and an identifier of a file of metadata corresponding thereto.

23. (New) A content recording program executed by a computer to function as:

a recorder that records a distributed object and a metadata file on a recording medium, the metadata file being an individual file having information related to the object and used to retrieve, categorize, and organize the object; and

a metadata correspondence information recorder that creates and records, on the recording medium, a metadata correspondence management file that

manages correspondence between an identifier of a metadata file and an identifier of an object corresponding to the relevant metadata file.